

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 20, 22 and 26 have been amended. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1-5, 10-19, 21 and 23 have been canceled previously. Thus, claims 6-9 and 20, 22, 24-29 remain pending, with claims 6-9, 28 and 29 being withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 20, 22 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanasawa et al. Independent claims 20 and 22 have been amended to define the invention more clearly and thus, obviate the rejection. In particular, these claims, as amended, recite providing the needle as an elongated, generally cylindrical member with a substantially uniform cross-sectional area. The body is selected to surround the needle and form a body passage that communicates with and surrounds substantially an entire length of the elongated member. These features are clearly shown in FIG. 1 where the body passage 58 surrounds substantially an entire length of the elongated, cylindrical needle 68. In addition, claims 20 and 22 recite that the body passage is part of a fuel passageway the permits fuel to pass from a fuel inlet to a fuel outlet of the fuel injector.

Tanasawa et al. discloses an elongated cylindrical needle 6 in a bore 2, but there is no body passage surrounding an entire length of the needle 6. The bore 2 is not part of the fluid passageway 8, 9, 7 and 3 of Tanasawa et al. The passageway 7 surrounds only the conical portion 5 of the needle 6. There is no body passage as claimed, since Tanasawa et al. provides passages 8 that are spaced from and not in communication with the with the elongated portion of the needle 6. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

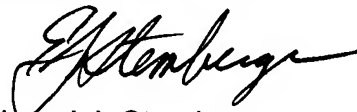
Claims 20, 22 and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamura et al. in view of Tanasawa et al. Claims 20 and 22 have been amended to obviate the rejection. In particular, 20 and 22 recite providing the seat separate from, but coupled with the body with the first and second surfaces of the seat being in generally parallel relation with each other and generally transverse with respect to the longitudinal axis of the body. Neither Kawamura et al. nor Tanasawa et al. disclose a seat separate from but coupled to a body.

Furthermore, Kawamura et al. does not disclose a seat having first and second surfaces in generally parallel relation and transverse to a longitudinal axis of the body. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wieczorek in view of Daly et al. Claims 20 and 22 have been amended to recite that the at least one cut-out comprises a plurality of separated volumes, and each of the plurality of volumes is defined by a respective wall and each of the respective walls comprises a cylindrical side wall and an end wall. At least one wall defining recess 34 in Wieczorek et al. is not cylindrical. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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